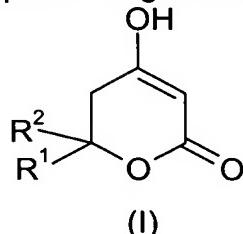


What is claimed is:

Patent Claims

10120 1. A process for preparing a compound of general formula (I),



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wherein

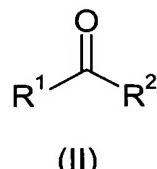
10120 R¹ is a C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₆-C₁₀-aryl-C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl group,
and

R² is a C₁-C₈-alkyl group,

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comprising:

10120 reacting a) a ketone of formula (II)



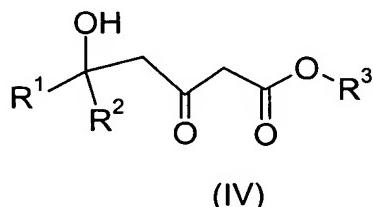
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10120 wherein R¹ and R² are as hereinbefore defined,

with an acetoacetate in the presence of a strong base

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b) cyclising the resulting compound of formula (IV)



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10122 wherein

R³ denotes a C₁-C₄-alkyl or benzyl group,

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by means of a base, wherein a compound of formula II is continuously mixed and reacted with an acetoacetate in the form of its dianion in a microreactor, and subsequently isolating the product compound of the general formula (I).

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2. The process according to claim 1, wherein a microreactor with an interdigital channel structure is used for reaction step a).

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3. The process according to claim 2, wherein a current of educt A containing the compound of formula (II) and a current of educt B containing the acetoacetate in the form of its dianion are continuously mixed together in the mixing element of a microreactor and the liquid reaction mixture is passed into a holding capillary.

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4. The process according to claim 3, wherein the capillary is 0.1 to 10 m long and 0.05 to 5 mm in diameter.

5. The process according to claim 4 wherein 1-phenyl-3-hexanone is used as the compound of formula (II) in step a).

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6. The process according to claim 5, wherein step a) the acetoacetate is used in the presence of at least 2 equivalents of a strong base selected from sodium hydride, butyllithium and lithium dialkylamide.

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7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the acetoacetate is added to the compound of formula (II) in a molar ratio of 2:1 to 1:2.

8. The process according to claim 7 wherein the reaction in step a) is carried out at a temperature of -78 to +85 °C.

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9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the reaction in step a) is carried out at an overall flow rate of 1.5 to 5 ml/min.

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the flow rate of the compound of formula (II) to the compound of formula (III) is in a ratio of 1:1 to 1:2.

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11. The process according to claim 10 wherein the reaction is carried out in a plurality of microreactors connected in series or in parallel.